

What is claimed is:

1. Product design apparatus comprising:

a product database server operable to provide a plurality of product styles, a plurality of customizable attributes, and a plurality of composite images;

at least one client computer for accessing the product database server to select a product style and the customizable attributes based upon choices presented by the product database server and selections made via the client computer,

the product database server being operable to provide a custom product design by combining a selected one of the product styles with a selected plurality of the attributes; and

a plurality of graphic representations illustrative of the product styles and the customizable attributes, said database server being operable to display said product styles on the client computer,

said product database server being operable to provide a composite image representing a product having the selected style and the selected attributes.

2. The design apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the product database server and the client computer are connected by a TCP/IP compliant protocol.

3. The design apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the product database server is operable to

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display a plurality of quantity choices of the product having the selected custom design.

4. The design apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the product database server displays the custom design product having the composite image, the product style, the customized attributes, and the quantity choices.

5. The design apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the client computer is operable to submit the custom design product to the product database server to initiate an order for said product.

6. A product design method using sequential computer screens to create a final product according to a predetermined one of a plurality of available specifications comprising:

(a) displaying a plurality of product styles and a plurality of customization attributes on a plurality of said sequential computer screens;

(b) selecting one of said product styles and one or more of said attributes;

(c) producing an image of a final product have the selected style as the selected attributes; and

(d) displaying said image and product specification information based on the selected style and attributes.

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7. The method according to claim 6 including sending the product specification to a receiver by email.

8. The method according to claim 6 wherein said receiver is a manufacturer of said product.

9. An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer readable medium having a computer readable program code embodied thereon, said computer readable program being configured to perform the steps of:

displaying a plurality of selectable product styles and a plurality of selectable customizable attributes;

receiving selected product style and attribute information;

selecting an image using the received information; and

displaying the selected image together with product specification information based on the received information.

10. A product design system, comprising:

a tool database server operable to provide a plurality of tool styles, a plurality of customizable attributes, and a plurality of composite images;

at least one client computer operable to access the tool database server and select a tool style and one or more customizable attributes based upon

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choices presented by the tool database server and decisions made via the client computer;

said product database server being operable to provide a custom design tool by combining a selected one of the tool styles with the selected attributes; and

a plurality of graphic representations illustrative of a custom design tool having the selected tool style and the selected attributes, said custom design tool being displayable on the client computer.

11. The design system according to claim 10 wherein the tool database server and the client computer are connected by a TCP/IP compliant protocol.

12. The design system according to claim 10 wherein the tool database server displays a plurality of quantity choices for the custom design tool.

13. The design system according to claim 10 wherein the tool database server displays the custom design tool having the composite image, the tool style, the customized attributes, and the quantity choices.

14. The design system according to claim 10 wherein the client computer is operable to submit the custom design tool to the tool database server to initiate an order for said tool.

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15. A product design method of using sequential computer screens to design a tool according to a specification comprising:

(a) displaying a plurality of tool styles and a plurality of customization attributes on a computer screen using a plurality of sequential images;

(b) selecting one of said tool styles and one or more of said attributes;

(c) creating a tool image having the selected style and attributes; and

(d) displaying said tool image on one of said screens.

16. The method according to claim 15 including displaying on said one of said screens selected specifications relating to a tool corresponding to said tool image.

17. The method according to claim 16 including transmitting to a receiver by email the tool image and the specification displayed on said selected screen.

18. The method according to claim 16 wherein said receiver is a tool manufacturer.

19. The method according to claim 15 wherein the selected tool style includes one of: a ball end having a value equal to 50% of the diameter; a square end; and a corner-radius end having a value less than 50% of the diameter.

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20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the selected tool style has a flat, a reduced cutting diameter, and a neck.

21. The method according to claim 15 wherein the selected tool style is formed of carbide.

22. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable medium having a computer readable program code embodied thereon, said computer readable program code being operable to perform the steps of:

displaying a plurality of carbide rotary tool styles and a plurality of customization attributes on a computer screen as a plurality of sequential images;

receiving user-selected carbide rotary tool styles and attribute information;

creating a selected image using the received information; and

displaying the selected image along with specification information related to said selected image and based on the received information.

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